

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Masaaki CHIBA

Attorney Docket Number: 026390-00030

Serial Number: 10/538,408

Confirmation Number: 3607

Filed: June 10, 2005

For: DAMPING DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: October 24, 2005

Sir:

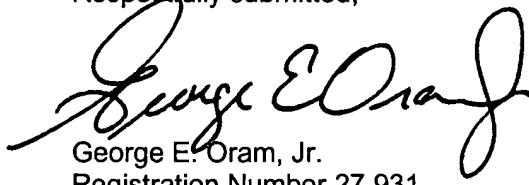
Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information items listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the items be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Check number \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_, as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicants hereby petition that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check number \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_, as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ 4. Most of the references are cited in counterpart foreign application PCT/JP2003/015932, filed December 12, 2003. The relevance of the references is noted in the International Search Report, a copy of which is attached for the Examiner's information. We understand that the references have been forwarded by the International Bureau, and are available to the Examiner, but if the Examiner needs copies of any of the references, the Examiner is requested to advise counsel accordingly. 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

The relevance of Japanese Patent Publication Number 11-511229 with corresponding International Publication Number WO 96/41972 and Japanese Patent Publication Number 2002-193012 is discussed in the present specification.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosures: PTO/SB/08a  
PTO/SB/08b  
International Search Report  
References (3)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
Form PTO/SB/08a

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/538,408
Filing Date	June 10, 2005
First Named Inventor	Masaaki CHIBA
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	026390-00030

Sheet	1	of	1
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

## Complete if Known

Application Number	10/538,408
Filing Date	June 10, 2005
First Named Inventor	Masaaki CHIBA
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	026390-00030

Sheet	1	of	1
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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